

# LitFinder

From Dante to Brontë — and so much more!

## HOW TO USE LITFINDER

Use your library's Internet browser to go to the *LitFinder* URL. On the home page, you will find several search options.

### BROWSE

*LitFinder* allows users to browse results by:

- Literary form — poems, stories, essays, plays, speeches
- Genre — children's literature, ethnic and regional writing, fiction, religious works, etc.
- Subject — the arts, family, history, nature, etc.
- Contemporary work — 20th-century authors including Derek Walcott, Maya Angelou and many others
- Kids' Korner — specially selected poems for children, on topics including animals, food, people and places

### NARROWING BROWSE RESULTS

Within each Browse results page, *LitFinder* offers further search limiters and refiners.

- **Poems** are refined by full-text, subject, genre, children's topics, author nationality, timeline and contemporary work
- **Stories** are refined by subject, genre, children's topics, author nationality and timeline
- **Essays** are refined by subject, genre, author nationality and timeline
- **Plays** are refined by subject, genre, children's topics, author nationality and timeline
- **Speeches** are refined by subject, genre, author nationality and timeline
- **Authors** are refined by type of literature, gender, last name, nationality, timeline, profession, religion and contemporary work

### BASIC SEARCH

For the highest number of results, use a Basic Search.

- Enter your basic keyword (e.g. "time") and select which literary form(s) you'd like to search: poems, stories, essays, plays, speeches or all
- Listed results are shown with the keyword highlighted in the text

### NARROWING BASIC RESULTS

Within each Basic Search results page, *LitFinder* offers further search limiters and refiners including:

- Full-text results only
- Type — poems, speeches, essays, plays, stories plus Glossary and Explanations
- Subject — an A-Z listing of hundreds of subject headings
- Genre
- Children's literature
- Author nationality
- Timeline (12th century B.C. to the present day)
- Contemporary works in the subject

### ADVANCED SEARCH

For the most refined results, use the Advanced Search, which features four cross-referenced search options:

- **Literature:** Enter keyword(s), record title and/or author name. Select from a drop-down menu of types (poems, stories, essays, plays, speeches) and/or timeline.
- **Author:** Enter author name. Select from a drop-down menu of types, timeline, author gender and/or author religion
- **References:** Enter keyword(s), record title and/or author name
- **All:** Three entry boxes let you enter up to three keywords, limiting by Boolean operators (AND, OR, BUT NOT) plus a drop-down menu of author and text information

### LITFINDER TOOLS

*LitFinder* helps enhance user understanding of literature with a number of tools linked to Browse, Basic and Advanced search results:

- **Explanations:** Scan a list of more than 865 concise, expert-written essays on specific works of literature; or use a Basic Search to narrow your result
- **Glossary of Terms:** More than 150 poetic terms receive fast definitions
- **Exploring Poetry:** More than 25 expert-written discussions cover most 20th century poetic schools and movements, including Asian-American, Harlem Renaissance, Beat Movement and Imagism
- **Author of the Month:** Linked from the home page, this feature spotlights an author of contemporary or historical interest. Results often include biographical and bibliographical information, essay and picture

For further assistance with *LitFinder*, consult your media specialist